MARVEL COMICS
2099
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SPIDER-MAN
2099 A.D.
DIRECT EDITION
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$1.95 US $2.75 CAN

SPIDER-MAN 2099™ Vol. 1, No. 38, January, 1996. (ISSN #1073-8130) Published by MARVEL COMICS. Gerard Calabrese, President. Stan Lee, Publisher. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, NY 10016. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, N.Y. AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Published monthly. Copyright © 1995 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. Price $1.95 per copy in the U.S. and $2.75 in Canada. Subscription rate for 12 issues: $23.40 U.S., $35.40 foreign, and Canadian subscribers must add $10.00 for postage and GST. GST #R127032852. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the condition that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. SPIDER-MAN 2099 (including all prominent characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof) is a trademark of MARVEL CHARACTERS, INC. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO SPIDER-MAN 2099, c/o MARVEL DIRECT MARKETING CORP. SUBSCRIPTION DEPT. P.O. BOX 1979, DANBURY, CT. 06813-1979. TELEPHONE # (203) 743-5331. PRINTED IN USA.

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LEMME OUTTA HERE! I'LL GET YOU! I'LL GET ALL OF YA!
THE SUBJECT "VENOM" IS BEING LESS THAN COOPERATIVE, SIR.
WELL, WE'LL HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.
THE RECORDS LIST KRON STONE AS DEAD. SO HOW'D YOU GET HERE?
BYTE ME!
BYTE ME? LISTEN, YOU'RE A MULTIPLE MURDERER.

HELLO, KRON. RATHER LIVELY FOR A DEAD MAN.
PRETTY SMUG, AIN'T'CHA, O'HARA. JUST LIKE WHEN WE WERE IN SCHOOL.
BE A LOT LESS SMUG WITH MY HAND AT YOUR THROAT!
GENTLEMEN.. CLEAR OUT, PLEASE, ON MY AUTHORITY.
BUT SIR...!
NOW. OH, AND DON'T FORGET TO WISH ME "GOOD MORNING."
YESSIR. MORNING, SIR.
YOU'RE ALIVE BECAUSE YOUR BOND WITH THE ALIEN SYMBIOTE MAKES YOU OF SCIENTIFIC INTEREST.
BUT INNOCENT PEOPLE'S BLOOD IS ON YOUR HANDS... INCLUDING PEOPLE I LOVED.
AWWW. POOR BABY.
YOU'RE GUTLESS, O'HARA! ALWAYS WERE!
OH, REALLY?

YOU AND ME, KRON... IF YOU THINK YOU CAN TAKE ME WITHOUT YOUR VENOM SYMBIOTE.
YOU WIN, YOU WALK. I WIN, YOU BECOME THE ANSWER MAN.
DEAL??!
DEAL!!
WAM
NUH... NOT BAD. SO THIS'LL TAKE ME TEN SECONDS, 'STEAD OF FIVE.

NO, KRON. IT'S GOING TO TAKE LONGER THAN THAT.
HEY! ARRHHH! LEGGO!
WHAT I'M TRYING TO "LET GO" OF IS MY ANGER. AND YOU KNOW WHAT?
IT'S NOT WORKING!!!
EEEYAHHH!!
SO I'LL JUST HAVE TO KEEP AT IT UNTIL IT'S ALL OUT, KRON.
COULD TAKE MINUTES... DAYS... ANYTHING'S POSSIBLE.

AHHH!
UNHHH!
UCHHHH!
Awright... Awright... I'll TALK...
I KNOW YOU WILL, KRON.
BUT THIS ISN'T JUST ABOUT YOU TALKING.
IT'S ABOUT ALL THE PEOPLE WHO'LL NEVER TALK AGAIN... NEVER SMILE OR LAUGH OR MAKE LOVE AGAIN...
BECAUSE OF YOU.
I DON'T WANT YOU TO TALK, KRON.
I WANT YOU TO SCREAM.
AND WE'LL BUILD FROM THERE.

DOWNTOWN...
HEY... DID YOU SEE THAT?
THE VULTURE HAD ME COLD, AND THIS... THIS GUY SHOWED UP AND KICKED VULTURE'S BUTT. I CAN'T EVEN DESCRIBE HIM...
DID HE KIND OF LOOK LIKE THAT?
Ohhhh SHOCK...
DON'T LET HIM IN! KASEY, ARE YOU NUTS?!
ONLY IF I THINK I CAN KEEP HIM OUT.
HELLO, MY DEAR.
DO YOU REMEMBER ME?
I'M SURE YOU MEET SO MANY INTERESTING PEOPLE, I MIGHT HAVE SLIPPED YOUR MIND.

OKAY, FREAKSHOW! DON'T MOVE!
JUST STAY RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE!
IF YOU IN SIGHT.
SHZAK
ARRHHH!!
YOU'LL BE ABLE TO PICK UP THE GUN IN A FEW MINUTES.
HAS THE VULTURE MANHANDLED YOU SINCE THAT SCUFFLE?
HH...NO. NOT AT ALL.

THERE'S A NEW ORDER IN DOWNTOWN. ONCE EVERYONE KNOWS IT, WE CAN LIVE IN PEACE AND RECLAIM WHAT ALCHEMAX HAS TAKEN.
WILL YOU HELP?
OF...OF COURSE. WITH YOU AND SPIDER-MAN WORKING TOGETHER...
THAT CORPORATE TOOL? FORGET HIM.
WHAT? I... DON'T BELIEVE YOU.
THEN I'LL MAKE SURE HE CONFESSES IT PERSONALLY.
FAREWELL.
NOW THERE GOES A COLORFUL CHARACTER.
I DON'T TRUST HIM.
ME NEITHER. I DON'T KNOW WHO TO TRUST ANYMORE.
BUT I'D LIKE TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT HIM.

WHAT THE SHOCK ■ YOU THINK IS GOING ON IN THERE? I THOUGHT I HEARD STUFF BEING KNOCKED OVER...
MAYBE WE SHOULD CALL SECURITY...
THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY.
I THINK YOU'LL FIND HIM MORE COOPERATIVE NOW.
MISTER STONE?
MISTER STO...
VENOM? ARE YOU ALL RI--?
OH MY LORD.
Whuyuwanaknow?

I HAVE TWO HALF BROTHERS.
ONE THINKS HE'S MY FULL BROTHER, AND HATES SPIDER-MAN..
AND THE OTHER DOESN'T KNOW WE'RE RELATED AND HATES MIGUEL.
ADD THEM UP, I'VE GOT ONE WHOLE BROTHER WHO HATES ME COMPLETELY.
IT'S NICE TO HAVE FAMILY.
BY THE WAY, I HAVE REMOVED DANA FROM THE HOLIDAY CARD LIST AND DISCONTINUED HER SECURITY CLEAR--
SHE'S DEAD, LYLA! DOESN'T THAT MEAN ANYTHING TO YOU?!
NO. SHOULD IT?
I GUESS NOT.
GABRI STILL NOT HOME?
NO.
AND XINA?
HER ELECTRONIC SERVANT, JACK, SAYS SHE IS NOT TAKING CALLS.
THEN I'LL VISIT. GOOD A TIME AS ANY TO CHECK THE WEBFOIL REPAIRS.
AND IF THEY ARE INADEQUATE!!

"IN THAT EVENT, DANA WILL HAVE COMPANY."
YES, COME IN PLEASE, MR. O'HARA.
HEY, XIN'. HOW YOU HOLDING UP?
FINE.
IT... MUST HAVE BEEN AWFUL FOR YOU. BEING THERE, SEEING IT HAPPEN... SEEING HER...
IT COULD'VE BEEN ME, MIGGY.
SO EASILY, IT COULD'VE...
YOUR TEA IS READY. SHALL I...?
NO. I'LL DO IT, JACK.

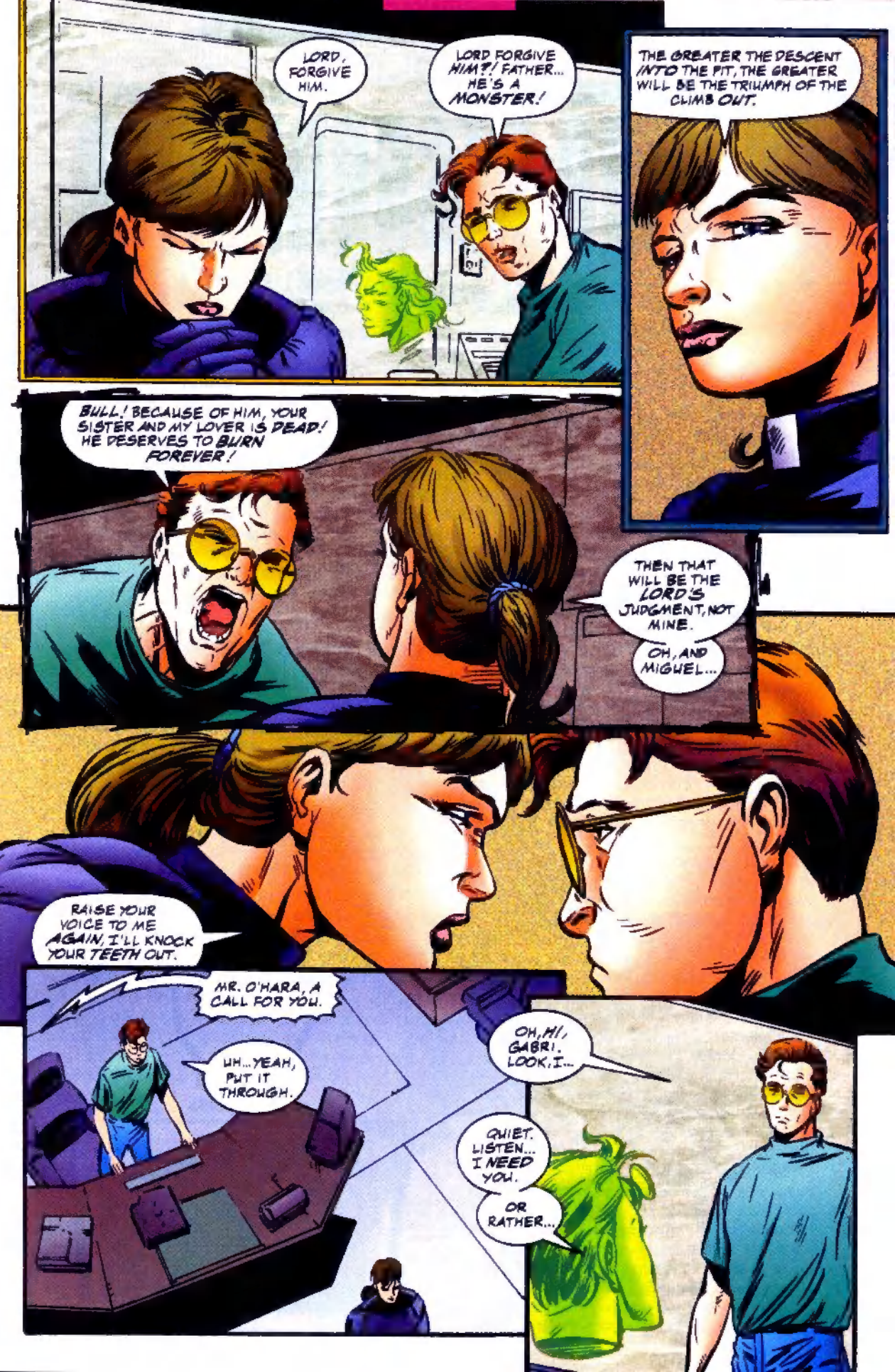
IT'S INCREDIBLE. AFTER ALL THIS TIME, KRON STONE CAME BACK TO HAUNT US.
AND WHO WAS THE ONE THAT SUFFERED? YOU AND ME, WHO HE HATED?
NO. DANA. WHO... WHOSE ONLY CRIME WAS THAT SHE WAS OVEREAGER TO LOVE PEOPLE AND..
...AND SHE WAS READY TO SACRIFICE HERSELF FOR ME... AND SHE'S DEAD, AND...
...AND I'M STILL HERE!! WHY THE SHOCK AM I STILL HERE?!?
SHE LOST HER LIFE OVER ME, AND... AND MY FIRST REACTION WAS RELIEF. I THOUGHT, "THANK THE LORD IT'S OVER AND I'M STILL HERE!"
WHAT KIND OF... OF MONSTER WAS I TO THINK THAT!?
NO MONSTER. JUST... A SCARED PERSON. IT'S OKAY TO BE HAPPY YOU SURVIVED.
IT DOESN'T MAKE YOUR MISERY NOW ANY LESS SINCERE.
MIGGY... I THINK YOU SHOULD RUN ALCHEMAX.
W-WHAT? BUT YOU SAID...
I WAS TELLING YOU HOW TO LIVE YOUR LIFE.
AT LEAST YOU HAVE A LIFE.
FORGET I EVER CRITICIZED YOU.
LORD... WHO AM I TO TELL SOMEONE ELSE WHAT TO DO?

DOWNTOWN...
STOP SKULKING IN THE SHADOWS. YOU AREN'T EXACTLY THE MOST INCONSPICUOUS OF INDIVIDUALS.
GLASS HOUSES, SWEET GOBLIN. GLASS HOUSES.
SO...DID OUR LITTLE ACT IMPRESS HER?
YES.
WHY HER, MAY I ASK? WHY SINGLE HER OUT?
BECAUSE SHE'S A PIVOTAL FIGURE HERE IN DOWNTOWN. A LOT OF THE CLIQUES RESPECT HER.
NO OTHER... JUICIER... REASON?
NONE. NONE AT ALL.

ALCHEMAX...
...AS MIGUEL O'HARA STARES AT A HOLO-REP OF HIS HALF-BROTHER'S FACE...
...SEEING NOTHING OF HIMSELF, MUCH AS A HOMO SAPIEN WOULD GAZE IN LACK OF RECOGNITION AT A NEANDERTHAL.
EXCUSE ME? O'HARA?
I HATE TO INTRUDE ON YOU, BUT--
FATHER JENNIFER! LONG WAY FROM DOWNTOWN, AREN'T YOU?
I'M... SORRY? HAVE WE MET?
HUH? OH... UH...
WELL... NOT MET EXACTLY.. I...
I DROPPED BY YOUR CHURCH ONE DAY.
OH. WELL... THAT'S NICE.
MR. O'HARA...
"MIGUEL," PLEASE.
ALL RIGHT. MIGUEL...
I KNOW YOU AND MY SISTER WERE CLOSE, AND I...
YOUR SISTER?
WHY... DANA D'ANGELO.
SHE NEVER [redacted] ME?
OHHHHH BOY.
SHE... MENTIONED HER SISTER JENNY A FEW TIMES [redacted] THE BEGINNING. BUT...
...BUT NOT AT ALL LATER ON.
WE WERE CLOSE FOR THE LONGEST TIME. BUT WE HAD A FALLING OUT A COUPLE YEARS AGO.
AND NOW I... CAN NEVER MAKE IT RIGHT.
AHEM! IS THAT THE... INDIVIDUAL? HOW DID HE BECOME SO BAMBOOZLED?
HAPPENSTANCE.
I [redacted] ABOUT [redacted] LISTEN [redacted] "EXPLANATION" FOR HIS ACTIONS. CARE TO JOIN ME?
IT'S WHY I CAME HERE: TO SEEK ANSWERS.

IT ALL STARTED V THE PUNISH. KILLED ME...
...OR TRIED TO.
"I DON'T BLAME HIM FOR MAKING THE MISTAKE. I SURE PASSED FOR DEAD. GIVEN A LITTLE MORE TIME, I WOULD'VE BEEN.
"BUT THE PUNISHER, HE WASN'T WASTING TIME. SO HE TOSSED ME DOWN THE NEAREST SEWER HOLE.
"I FLOATED AWAY, NOT BREATHING, NOT... ANYTHING. A FEW MORE MINUTES, PROB'LY, AND I'M GONE.
"AND THEN I BRUSHED UP AGAINST... IT.
"... AND FOR THE FINAL FEW SECONDS, I FILLED THE BILL.
"TOOK A LITTLE WHILE. LIKE I SAID... IT HAD MUTATED.
"IT SAID ITS NAME WAS... VENOM. CATCHY.

"IT HAD BEEN THERE FOR YEARS... MUTATING FROM AN EARLIER... INCARNATION... WAITING FOR A LIVING HUMAN HOST...
"I CAME OUT OF THE SEWER, NEWBORN... FOUND SOME BUM... FRIED HIM...
"...THEN LEFT MY I.D. ON HIM AND PLACED AN ANONYMOUS CALL TO THE AUTHORITIES."
BUT IT WAS MY FIRST KILL, AND I WAS EXHAUSTED. IT TOOK MY BODY TIME TO ADAPT TO THE SYMBIOTE, AND IT TO ME.
SO WE HID BACK DOWN IN THE SEWER... UNTIL WE HEARD ABOUT OUR FATHER GETTING SHOT.
WE COULDN'T LET HIM DIE WITHOUT TAKING ONE LAST TRY AT KILLING HIM OURSELVES.


LORD, FORGIVE HIM.
LORD FORGIVE HIM?! FATHER... HE'S A MONSTER!
THE GREATER THE DESCENT INTO THE PIT, THE GREATER WILL BE THE TRIUMPH OF THE CLIMB OUT.
BULL! BECAUSE OF HIM, YOUR SISTER AND MY LOVER IS DEAD! HE DESERVES TO BURN FOREVER!
THEN THAT WILL BE THE LORD'S JUDGMENT, NOT MINE.
OH, AND MIGUEL...
RAISE YOUR VOICE TO ME AGAIN, I'LL KNOCK YOUR TEETH OUT.
MR. O'HARA, A CALL FOR YOU.
UH... YEAH, PUT IT THROUGH.
OH, HI, GABRI. LOOK, I...
QUIET. LISTEN... I NEED YOU.
OR RATHER...

"...I NEED HIM. DOWNTOWN."
I SHOULD GET MY HEAD EXAMINED.
FIRST GABE EVAPORATES. THEN HE SAYS SPIDER-MAN IS NEEDED, BUT WON'T SAY WHY.
COULD IT BE DANA'S DEATH HAS SENT HIM AROUND THE BEND? CRAZINESS RUNS IN OUR FAMILY, AFTER ALL, LOOK AT MA.
FOR THAT MATTER, LOOK AT ME.
AH WELL. I GUESS I'LL INDULGE HIM.
AFTER ALL, WHAT CAN IT HURT?
To Be Continued...